REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 6, 2006, rejected all of the pending claims 1-13. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 7-8, 12, and 13, and canceled claim 2. As such, claims 1 and 3-13 remain pending.

Examiner Interview Summary

Applicants would like to thank Examiners Cao and Wassum for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview of November 1, 2006, during which Applicants' representative discussed U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0260692 ("Brill") and claim amendments that are believed to distinguish over Brill, which are described in greater detail below.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Office Action stated that claims 1 and 7-13 failed to recite a tangible result. In response, Applicants have incorporated the element of *providing a formatted results package to an application system* into independent claims 1, 12 and 13. Since this element substantially duplicates the subject matter of claim 2, claim 2 has been canceled and the dependency of claim 3 has been amended. Accordingly, Applicants request that the 101 rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brill. In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12 and 13 and, for consistency, dependent claims 7-8.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include bundling a first search result and second search result into a results package, formatting the results package in a format that is appropriate for use by the application system, and providing the formatted results package to the application system. The independent claims have further been amended to clarify that a second

search query is created *based on* a first search result—which is obtained in response to a first search query—and to further clarify that the second search query is different that the first search query. Applicants have made this latter amendment merely to more particularly define the currently intended claim scope; the amendment is not believed to be necessary to overcome the Brill reference. Independent claims 12 and 13 have been amended in a similar manner, and Applicants submit that each of the independent claims 1, 12 and 13 define subject matter that is patentable over Brill, as do the pending dependent claims 3-11.

Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, including, for example, at page 8, lines 7-13; page 10, lines 16-19; FIG. 2; and the originally filed claim 2. Accordingly, the amendments are supported by the originally filed specification, and no new matter has been added.

Brill generally teaches "improving text searches using information redundancy." (Brill, Abstract). For example, Brill describes a "low redundancy data set" from which "the probability of [a typically user] getting the desired result [in response to a search query] is low." (*See* Brill, at paragraph 0041). Brill describes a "projection architecture [that] overcomes these limitations by utilizing a second (or high redundancy) system 604 (or refining search system) from which *to assist the user* (via capabilities of the low redundancy system 600) *in determining the search terms* for use against the low redundancy data set 602." (Brill at paragraph 0042; emphasis added).

Brill does not anticipate the subject matter set forth in independent claim 1. For example, Brill does not disclose obtaining a first search result and *second search result, bundling the first search result and second search result into a results package, formatting the results package* in a format that is appropriate for use by the application system, and *providing the formatted results package to the application system.*

In addition, none of the prior art of record—taken alone or in combination—renders amended claim 1 obvious. For example, as indicated above, Brill is directed to "improving text searches" (Brill, abstract), whereas in one implementation, the method recited by claim 1 can be employed to receive a request for information contained in a particular knowledge base, and in

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addition, to obtain *other information* that is contained in *one or more additional knowledge bases*. (*See* originally filed specification at page 11, lines 24-27; see also, page 7, lines 14-17 ("If, for example, the search results contain product information, the work package service 110 may extract one or more product identifiers and include these within the second search query, which could then be used to search for frequently asked questions about the particular products.")).

The method recited by claim 1 has significant advantages that are not contemplated by the art of record. For example, the method is "capable of collecting a set of search results containing information from *multiple knowledge bases* and providing these results to a front-end software application." (*Id.* at page 2, lines 13-15; emphasis added). Moreover, all of the results and corresponding information can be *bundled* into a work package before being provided to the application. (*See Id.* at page 8, lines 7-9; page 10, lines 16-19). In some implementations, collecting information from multiple knowledge bases and bundling the collection information reduces difficulties that a user might otherwise face, such as "need[ing] to execute multiple searches and access multiple knowledge bases, or information sources to retrieve all of the needed information." (*Id.* at page 1, lines 24-25).

Accordingly, for at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 and the corresponding dependent claims 3-11 are patentable over Brill, and ask that the Examiner withdraw the rejections based on Brill. In addition, the other pending independent claims 12 and 13 have been amended in a similar manner as claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for substantially the same reasons as those provided with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants ask for the withdrawal of the rejection based on Brill of independent claims 12 and 13.

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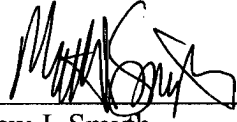Filed : February 18, 2004
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Conclusion

  Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1 and 3-13 are in condition for allowance, and ask that Examiner allow them.

  It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

  This response is accompanied by a Petition for One-Month Extension of Time. Please charge Deposit Account No. 06-1050 the required fee of $120. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

       Respectfully submitted,

Date:_____NOVEMBER 6, 2006_____   _____
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